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SHANGHAI	ASSAYE	About 2nd September	Freight and Passage.
LONDON, via SUEZ	DEVANHA	3rd September	See Special Advertisement.

P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Office. E. A. BEWITT, Superintendent.

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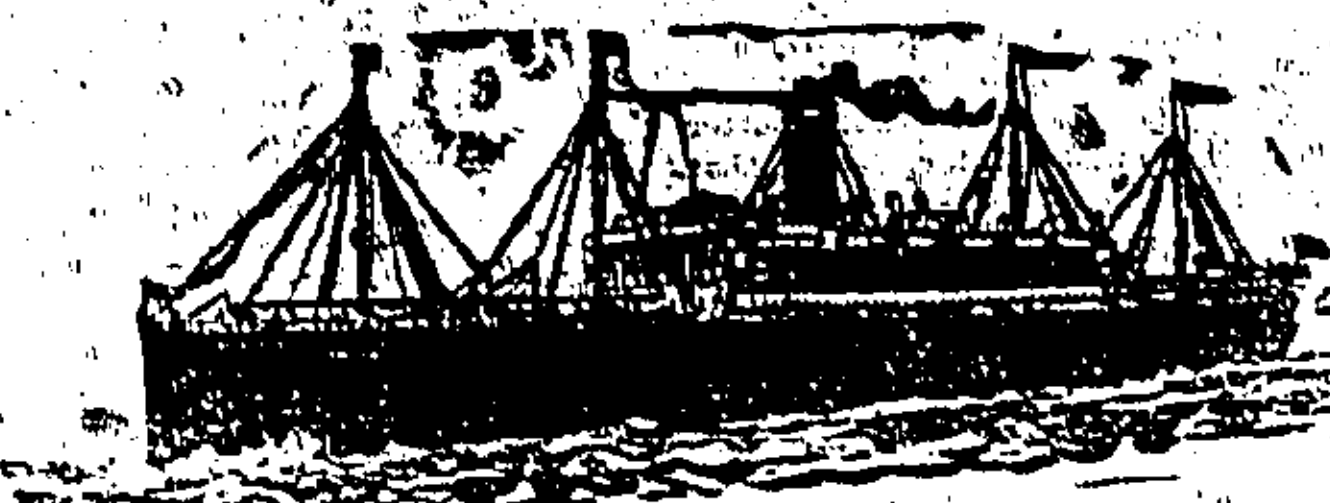
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* NIPPON MARU 18,000 Tons. SATURDAY, 25th Sept., at Noon.

* SIBERIA 18,000 Tons. FRIDAY, 1st Oct., at Noon.

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ANTWERP, via SINGAPORE, PENANG, INABA MARU, (WEDNESDAY, 15th Sept., at Daylight).

COLOMBO AND PORT SAID.

VICTORIA, B.C. & SEATTLE, SHINANO MARU, (TUESDAY, 14th Sept., at 4 p.m.).

via KEELUNG, SHANGHAI, MOJI, KOBE, KUMANO MARU, (TUESDAY, 28th Sept., at 4 p.m.).

YOKOHAMA, SHIMIZU and YOKOHAMA.

SYDNEY and MELBOURNE, NIKKO MARU, (FRIDAY, 3rd Sept., at Noon).

via MANILA, THURS. KUMANO MARU, (FRIDAY, 1st Sept., at Noon).

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SHANGHAI, MOJI & KOBE, TAKASAKI MARU, (TUESDAY, 24th Sept., at Noon).

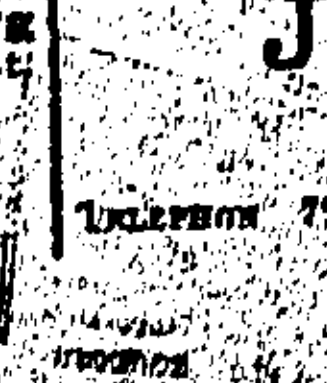
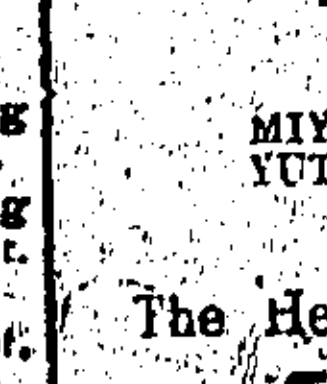
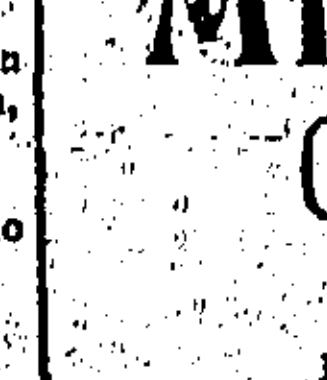
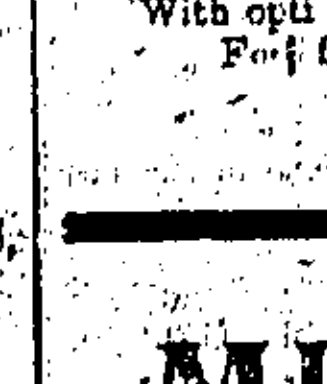
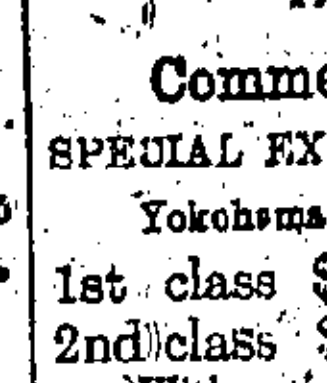
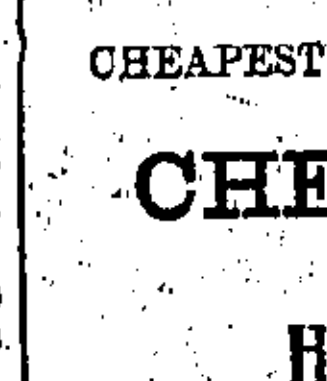
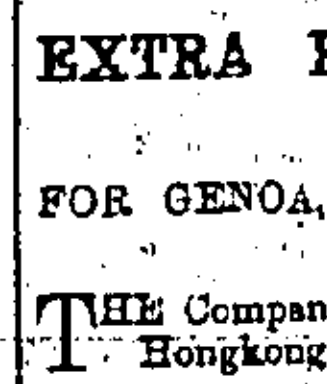
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THE BEGINNING OF IRON.

It is commonly believed that the use of iron commenced in either Africa or Asia, but Ridgway, in his recently published work, "The Beginning of Iron," states that the latest investigations prove that iron was not worked in Egypt until the ninth century before the Christian era or in Libya until 430 B.C., that the Semites adopted its use still later, and that it has been known in Uganda only within the last five or six centuries. In China iron is first mentioned in 400 B.C. Bronze weapons were employed in China until 100 A.D., and in Japan until 700 A.D. According to Ridgway, the metallurgy of iron must have originated in central Europe, especially in Noricum, which approximately represented modern Austria and Bavaria. Only at Hallstatt and in Bosnia and Transylvania, from which countries the Achaeans and Dorians are supposed to have migrated to Greece, are found evidences of a gradual introduction of iron; at first as an ornament applied to the bronze which it ultimately displaced. Everywhere else, iron was introduced suddenly—a fact which implies a foreign origin. Of course, Ridgway does not assert that iron was unknown outside of central Europe. On the contrary, he states that meteoric iron was known in Egypt in remote antiquity, but it was worked as flints were worked, by cutting or chipping, and was not smelted. In other words, it was the metallurgy, not the knowledge, of iron that originated in central Europe.

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Macao, May 13, 1908. 130

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January 14, 1908. Wei-Hai-Wei. 70

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INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LD.

PROJECTED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG (SUBJECT TO ALTERATION).

For SHANGHAI, YOKOHAMA, KOBE & MOJI

FOOCHOW, YATSHING, THURSDAY, Aug. 26, at 3 p.m.

SENGHAI, HANGSANG, THURSDAY, Aug. 26, at 4 p.m.

TIENTSIN, via SWATOW, CHIPSING, FRIDAY, Aug. 27, at 4 p.m.

WEI-HAI-WEI & CHEFOO, YUENSANG, FRIDAY, Aug. 27, at 4 p.m.

SINGAPORE, PENANG, KUTSANG, TUESDAY, Aug. 31, at 3 p.m.

AND CALCUTTA, LOONGSANG, FRIDAY, Sept. 3, at 4 p.m.

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General Managers.

ALLEGATIONS OF CRIMINAL CONVERSATION.

Capt Mitchell sues Mr. John Lamm.

Before the Chief Justice (Sir F. Pigott) and a special jury. At the Supreme Court today, an action was commenced by Capt. T. A. Mitchell, a bankrupt, and master of the s.s. Fookiang, against Mr. John Lamm, architect, of 64, Queen's Road Central, but who is now absent from the Colony, in which he alleged criminal conversation against the defendant. The statement of claim contained allegations that at various times at 4, Granville Avenue, Kowloon; at 8, Granville Avenue, Kowloon; at 6, Rose Terrace, Kowloon; at Box Vista Hotel, Macao; and at Eranee Bungalow, Observatory Road, Kowloon, Mr. Lamm unlawfully debauched and carnally knew Henrietta Maud Mitchell the wife of plaintiff. In consequence of this misconduct by defendant on the 7th of November, 1908, plaintiff obtained a decree of divorce at the First Division of the Court of Sessions at Edinburgh. The expenses of the divorce proceedings which plaintiff had paid and become liable to pay amounted to £14,330.14.

In the statement of defence defendant denied that he ever unlawfully debauched or carnally knew Mrs. Mitchell. He stated that he was not a party to any divorce proceedings commenced by plaintiff and was, not in any way bound by any decree made in any such proceedings. Further, the defendant did not admit that plaintiff had paid or become liable to pay costs incidental to such proceedings which amounted to £14,330 or any sum nearly as great.

Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., (instructed by Mr. H. W. Looker, from the office of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) was for plaintiff and Mr. M. W. Slade (instructed by Mr. P. M. Hodgson, from the office of Messrs. Ewens and Harston) was for defendant.

The following gentlemen were empanelled as the special jury:—Messrs. E. J. Hughes (foreman), J. W. Bolles, E. Shollin, E. H. Hinds, M. S. Northcote, G. C. Morxon and M. S. Sassoon.

At first the name of Mr. H. Fook was called, but Mr. Slade said they all knew Mr. H. Fook and knew that his knowledge of English was excellent, but under the whole of the circumstances he thought they might excuse him.

The Chief Justice excused Mr. H. Fook. Mr. James S. Douglas was also called and took his seat in the jury box, but when he came to be sworn he said he wished to inform the court that he was prejudiced in the case.—Accordingly he was also excused.

Sir Henry Berkeley, in reading the pleadings, said by inadvertence the amount of costs paid to Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon in respect of the Scotch divorce, amounting to £8,829.09, had been omitted from the particulars, and he now asked that they be added.—This was agreed to, the claim being amended to read £15,000 general moral damages and £1,187.23 special damages, representing money paid and payable in connection with the divorce proceedings.

Sir Henry, opening the case, said in addition to the amount paid and payable in respect of costs, plaintiff claimed a sum for the intolerable insults which he had suffered at the hands of defendant, who, it would be proved, during the time of this criminal intercourse with plaintiff's wife, was pretending to be on terms of personal friendship and intimacy with Capt. Mitchell. The action now being brought was for what was known as criminal conversation, the husband claiming damages against another man for having committed adultery with his wife. The term "criminal conversation" was no longer used at home, because in England the Divorce Court had jurisdiction which enabled it to give damages to a petitioner on his petition for divorce. The action for criminal conversation was abolished. In Hongkong, however, the action for criminal conversation had still to be brought because while the Supreme Court had jurisdiction in divorce and matrimonial affairs as far as ordinary judicial separation between parties was concerned, it had no jurisdiction in divorce itself. In November, 1904, Capt. Mitchell having proceeded to Scotland to obtain a divorce from his wife, obtained a decree from the Court of Sessions on the ground of her adultery with Mr. Lamm.

Mr. Slade raised an objection at this point.—He said, it was perfectly incompetent in this action for his friend to make any use of the proceedings in Scotland for the purpose of establishing the guilt or otherwise of the defendant in this case.

The Chief Justice.—Let us know the extent of your objection.

Mr. Slade.—For reasons of his own, rightly or wrongly, the plaintiff in this action did not make Mr. Lamm a party to the divorce proceedings. The defendant in this action therefore had no opportunity of being represented at the proceedings in Scotland. He is not a party to the proceedings, and whatever the result of those proceedings was, whatever the amount of the judgment was, and whatever, in fact, happened at all cannot be referred to in this case.

Sir Henry contended that he was entitled to prove the fact of the Scotch divorce as a fact of a consequence flowing from defendant's misconduct.

The Chief Justice said it was irrelevant to the case, and the same was not the same.

After a lengthy argument, the Chief Justice said the matter might be discussed subsequently, but his opinion was that the Scotch judgment could not be referred to.

Sir Henry, proceeding, said that in consequence of being promoted, Capt. Mitchell in 1905 was in a position to bring his wife to Hongkong from Australia. He then took the lease of a house at 4, Granville Avenue, Kowloon, and furnished it in a way suitable for the wife of a shipmaster.

In doing this he looked forward to many years of happiness and comfort with his family. Mrs. Mitchell left Australia sometime in 1895, being accompanied by her little daughter. By the same steamer, the s.s. Quindie, in which they travelled to Hongkong Mr. John Lamm also

journeyed. He was accompanied by his wife, who at that time was a great invalid and who shortly afterwards returned to Australia, and ultimately died. Mr. Lamm married again. The acquaintance thus formed between Mrs. Mitchell and Mr. Lamm lasted for something like six years and ripened into intimacy which ultimately resulted in criminal conversation taking place between them on several occasions on which Capt. Mitchell was away at sea. Mrs. Mitchell was an Australian and Mr. Lamm was also an Australian. They made acquaintance as far as was known, on board the steamer. On their arrival at Hongkong, Mrs. Mitchell introduced Mr. Lamm to her husband, who received him as a friend of his wife's, opened his house to him and extended hospitality which he would extend to any friend of his wife's.

In return for that confidence and hospitality, Mr. Lamm had induced those wrongs upon Capt. Mitchell which were now complained of. Proceeding, Sir Henry said he would not be able to give any direct proof of adultery between the parties in the sense of being able to call any eye-witness to the act, or any other evidence being committed. They could only understand that. But he would be able to supply evidence upon which they would be bound to draw the inference that the parties took advantage of the opportunity to commit the act of adultery between them. In order to bring home the charge against the defendant it would be necessary to call servants, disaffected as it might be, but inevitable in this case. But fortunately they had other witnesses, such as Europeans—who would give evidence of what they had seen. After detailing acts in the relationships of the parties, Sir Henry said Mrs. Mitchell ultimately decided to form a gentleman's mess in her house, but this was quite without the knowledge of Capt. Mitchell. He (Sir Henry) would prove that a Mr. Watkins and one of the other members of the mess only had their meals at the house whereas Mr. Lamm not only had his meals there but slept there and then right during the time Capt. Mitchell was away at sea. He would also prove that while he was in the house at night the only other occupants of the house, barring the servants, were Mrs. Mitchell and her young child. From that fact he would ask the jury as reasonable men to draw the conclusion that acts of adultery had been committed by the parties. When Capt. Mitchell returned his wife told him of the new arrangements made, whereupon he told her he strongly disapproved of them and asked her to stop the mess. Mrs. Mitchell, however, never told her husband that Mr. Lamm slept at the house. That was kept as a secret from him and he never heard of it until some three or four years after. Sir Henry proceeded to refer to the question of damages, asking the jury to give such substantial damages as would be reasonable in the circumstances of the case. Mr. Lamm from interfering with the homes of mariners when the husbands were not present to afford their wives the protection they would otherwise have. He also asked for a sufficient amount in view of any legal difficulties that might prevent Capt. Mitchell from being able to recover his special damages.

The Chief Justice.—It is utterly out of order to discuss damages with a jury. Sir Henry (surely I have a right to ask the jury to give such a sum—)

The Chief Justice.—It is utterly irregular. Sir Henry (I am sure I have a right to ask for heavy damages. I say I can ask them to give such general damages as will relieve him from financial difficulty in the future.)

Mr. Slade.—Set him up for life. The Chief Justice.—The Chief Justice said if the case was found to be a bad one the jury could give vindictive damages, but he would direct them on that.

Plaintiff, in the course of his evidence, said he did not know that Mr. Lamm was occupying a bedroom in his house until he came to his wife's room. He certainly did not approve of it. He referred to several rather suspicious circumstances in the relations of his wife and Mr. Lamm, one of which he detailed at length. In July, 1908, he came into harbour on a Sunday, and he found his wife and Mr. Lamm in his house. He spent the day at home, leaving his ship at anchor in the harbour. It turned out a very wet night and he and his wife retired at about 9 o'clock. At 9.30 a rickshaw drove up to the door and stopped. His wife became greatly excited and said, "Some one has come to see me." Mr. Lamm told her that surely no one would come to visit them at that time of night in such bad weather. Presently the bell rang, and all the time his wife was getting more excited still. The boy answered the door, and witness heard him distinctly say, "Master here." To this Mr. Mitchell replied, "Oh yes, Mr. Lamm; come in." Then turning to witness he said, "Here's Mr. Lamm come to see you." Witness asked him why he had come at that time, and Mr. Lamm replied, "I saw your ship at the buoy, and I thought I would run over and see you." Witness told him his ship was not at the buoy but at Wanchai anchorage. He replied, "Well, I don't know exactly where I lay her, but I know I saw her somewhere." Witness asked Mr. Lamm why he had paid off his rickshaw before he rang the bell, and he replied that he did not care to keep the coolie standing in the rain. Mr. Lamm left some minutes afterwards, and witness spoke to him very shortly on the subject. He did not speak to Mr. Lamm, because for the sake of his daughter he did not wish to raise a scandal. In 1903 witness met the second Mrs. Lamm in the street. She was in great grief and was bitterly crying. She made a statement to witness and showed him a letter. In consequence of this witness wrote Mr. Lamm telling him that he wished him to understand that in future they would meet as strangers. Witness also wrote his wife. Sir Henry Berkeley.—Have you spoken to your wife since that?—No.

Have you seen her since?—I have seen her in the street and in the Court.

During 1904 have you ever seen her in the street?—I have seen her in the street and places of amusement in company with Mr. John Lamm.

In November, 1904, did you go to Macao?—Yes.

Did you inspect the hotel register?—I did.

Did you bring away a certain leaf of the register?—I didn't bring it away at that time but I got it afterwards.

Mr. Slade cross-examined witness, as to the visit made by Mr. Lamm on the rainy night, and as to the statement made by him forward this circumstance to support his case, though he knew standing alone it was not very serious.

Are you one of those people who do not believe in friendship between the opposite sexes?—To a certain extent.

What do you mean by that exact?—People may be on friendly terms as you not impute themselves.

Do you consider it any great harm in a man paying a visit to a lady after dinner?—It all depends on circumstances.

A Chinese servant formerly in the employ of Mr. Mitchell gave evidence, after

which Capt. Austin, formerly of the s.s. Wanchai, spoke of Mr. Lamm and Mrs. Mitchell making a trip on his steamer to Macao. They came together and were always chatting together. They returned the next day, having spent the night at Macao. This happened more than once. Witness had also seen them together at a house at Causeway Bay.

Mr. Slade.—That is not a suspicious circumstance.

Witness.—I have seen them at Watkins's.

Mr. Slade.—That is awfully wicked. Later, witness was cross-examined by Mr. Slade.

Were Mr. Lamm and Mrs. Mitchell alone on those occasions?—No.

Who was with them?—Miss Mitchell.

How old was she?—I don't know. I never saw a young lady's age, it's a breach of etiquette (laughter).

Can you guess her age?—It is very hard to guess a lady's age. They take themselves up so (laughter).

Was she a little girl?—I should say she was about 16 years of age.

She was a good looking girl, wasn't she?—That's a matter of opinion.

But she was a fine girl, wasn't she?—Oh yes, can pass.

The hearing was adjourned until tomorrow.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, Limited.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders in the above company was held at noon to day in the company's offices, Queen's Buildings. The Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson presided and there were also present Sir Paul Chater, Messrs. H. P. Whitte, D. W. Craddock, W. Helms, J. W. Baidow, E. G. Barrett, S. Silverstone, E. A. Slade (director); W. Wilson (Acting General Manager), G. A. Caldwell (Acting Secretary); H. W. Slade, W. E. Clarke, J. Cox-Edwards, H. G. White, A. Ough, D. Macdonald, E. C. Wilks, T. I. Rose, W. H. Wickham, J. A. Chipper, Chor Leep Chee, W. J. C. Bonnar, P. Mitchell, A. V. Apar, J. P. Bragg, H. Percy Smith, Ho Mok, K. Sayes, Ho In, Cheung Kui Kai, N. M. H. Nemozue, Chau Suk Pui, etc.

The Acting Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting, the Chairman said gentlemen, the report and accounts have been in your hands for some time, with your permission I will follow the usual custom and take them as read. Your Directors regret the unsatisfactory result of the six months' working, the profit earned being less than for any period since the latter half of 1889. This unfortunate result may be attributed to the keen competition now experienced, and the consequent narrowing of margins of profits, also to the prevailing depression in the shipping trade. The total tonnage of merchant ships and men-of-war docked during the period under review shows a falling off of some 165,000 tons as against the previous half-year. The net profits for the six months ended 30th June, 1909, were at the rate of £76,000.93, as compared with £261,981.63 for the previous half-year and £274,577.68 for the corresponding period of 1908. Including the balance of £387,078.77 brought forward from last account, and deducting Directors and Auditors' fees, we have available for appropriation the sum of £420,192.36, out of which your Directors propose, subject to your approval, to pay a dividend for the half-year of 3 per cent, or £150 per share, absorbing £75,000.00, and carry forward the balance, £345,192.36 to new account. Certain instalments having been received on account of work in progress, the item "sundry creditors" is higher by some £90,000.00 than in the last account, while "sundry debtors" is less by some \$95,000.00. The value of material on hand shows a further reduction of about \$66,000.00. The whole of the Company's buildings, docks and plant have been kept up in a state of thorough working order, and the addition of a few up-to-date machine tools at Kowloon Dock will increase the efficiency of the establishment. It has been necessary to relay the permanent way throughout the yard at Kowloon, substituting heavier rails for those previously in use, which experience proved to be too light; the cost, \$7,853, has been paid for out of revenue.

Since we last met we have received Mr. Dyer's report and after careful consideration of his recommendations, some progress has been made which, your Directors trust, will in the future result in the more economical working of the Company, and at the same time, by greater efficiency and the adoption of more modern methods in the carrying out of dock-keeping and allocation of departmental charges, enable us with greater accuracy to arrive at the actual cost of production of all articles turned out at our works, and thus place us on a basis that may be offering. Mr. Mitchell, a very old servant of the Company, tendered his resignation which was accepted; and he left the Colony in April last. Your late Secretary, Mr. Rose, had an agreement running on until February, 1911; this has by mutual consent, been cancelled, by a payment to Mr. Rose, with which we trust he is satisfied, and that you, gentlemen, will approve of our action in this matter. To replace the gentleman just referred to, we have engaged, as Chief Manager, Mr. Robert Morton Dyer, for a period of three years, with our option of renewing for a further two years. Mr. Dyer will select and engage, on terms agreed upon by your Directors, a Secretary who is thoroughly conversant with the dock-keeping, time-keeping and testing of a shipbuilding or engineering business. In the accounts before you under the heading of reorganization you will observe that there has been an expenditure of £37,775.54. This includes Mr. Dyer's salary and expenses for coming and going, and for the cost of printing and advertising in the affairs of the Company, the payment to Mr. Rose referred to, and Mr. Mitchell's passage money to England. Now, gentlemen, you may well feel anxious to know in what way you are to benefit by this expenditure. It is proposed to move the Hon. Office over to Kowloon, raising on this side in less costly premises one senior and one junior clerk; with the Comptroller and staff. It is considered that a great deal of the work hitherto done in the Hongkong office is superfluous, and that the amalgamation, a considerable saving will be effected. There are also several changes contemplated in the management of the various docks all tending towards economy, and we have a reduction in expenditure of £2,000 to £2,500 per annum. The only further known payment is that of some £25,000 for lengthening and providing increased office accommodation in the present Drawing Office at Kowloon but as this is a permanent improvement, it can properly be added to the book value of Kowloon Dock. There is one further matter to which I must refer, and that is the valuation of our stock. Your new manager is of opinion that it is necessary to write down the value as they at present stand in our books, they having hitherto been based on cost. Your Directors, recognizing that this is a matter of primary importance, have arranged with Mr. Enlay Miller to go through the Stock in conjunction with a company arrived from England, and value it item by item. This work is now in progress but, as you will readily understand, it is a big undertaking and must necessarily occupy time. In the past, Stock has only been valued at the end of each year. We regret not having the figures to place before you at this meeting, but on Mr. Dyer's return in October next they will be submitted to him, and I promise you, should any adjustment be found necessary, before you with our accounts to the 1st December next. Since Mr. Mitchell's departure, Mr. Wilson has been acting as Chief Manager, and your Directors inform you with regret that he has made up his mind to retire in a few months' time. I should take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Wilson for the whole-hearted way he has carried on the work, and to wish him good health and prosperity wherever he may elect to settle. Gentlemen, I have endeavoured to place the position clearly before you, but should any further information require further information, I shall be pleased to afford it to the best of my ability.

No questions were asked and the Chairman proposed the adoption of the report and accounts as presented to the meeting. Mr. Slade then moved that the report which I have now the pleasure to record is not a more satisfactory one, but I do not think anyone can have looked for anything better. The depression in trade and the keen competition which we have had to encounter are evidenced by the fact that the Company's water mark and that from now on we may see a gradual but continued improvement in the work of the Company, and possibly improve the efficiency of the Docks. The Chairman has referred to the question of stocks. This is an item which bulks very largely in our balance sheet, standing at £1,250,000. I am sure it is a wise thing to have a thorough revision made, and I hope the Chairman's remarks do not portend the appropriation of any large sum out of the profits of this half year for the purpose of writing down values. One of the results of our reorganization scheme has been the retirement of certain members of our staff, and I think you will all agree with me, gentlemen, when I say that we appreciate most highly the valuable services they have rendered us for many years past. At the same time I should like to welcome our new chief manager, Mr. Dyer, and to wish him every success in his new position, and to hope that he has undertaken. I have much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts.—Carried.

The Chairman.—Thank you for your attendance, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be ready tomorrow.

United Asbestos Oriental Agency Limited.

The Thirteenth Ordinary General Meeting of Shareholders in the United Asbestos Oriental Agency, Limited, was held in the offices of Messrs. Dodwell & Co., Ltd., to-day. Mr. Edgar G. Barrett presided and amongst those present were Messrs. A. H. Brown, J. D. Auld and G. R. Edwards.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting, the Chairman said:—Gentlemen—A copy of the report and statement of accounts having been placed before you, I propose to read the report and statement of accounts. The net profits for the period under review show a considerable falling off as compared with recent years, in fact they are less than they have been for any year during the last five years. Our turnover was slightly less than the average for the last five years but the percentage of profit is considerably less. This is accounted for by the keen competition consequent upon the continuation of the depression in trade we have been experiencing for some time. Business generally in the Colony continues dull, but I hope shortly to see signs of improvement in this direction. Our stock has been very carefully checked and valued and is in excellent condition. You will note upon the accounts that the value of our material at the three ports at which we are established is \$19,000 less than the previous year; we have been able to considerably reduce our stocks by introducing a system whereby the ports draw on one another for necessary supplies, instead of each port keeping large stocks. I regret the profits this year are insufficient to pay a dividend on the Founder's shares, but trust in future we shall be able to pay the same handsome dividends on those shares as we have recently years. With shares as we have now proposed.—That this Report and Accounts be received, approved and adopted.

After this resolution has been seconded, I shall be pleased to answer any questions. Mr. Auld proposed, and the proposal was carried unanimously, that the Chairman propose no questions, the Chairman proposed and Mr. Ritchie seconded.—That a dividend of 15 per cent. on the Ordinary shares be now declared out of the net profits of the undivided year at the present meeting ending 31st May, 1909, and that each dividend be paid to existing members on this day.

Mr. Ritchie, proposed, and Mr. Auld seconded, that the resolution of Mr. W. H. Potts as auditor for the ensuing year at a remuneration of \$150 per annum be adopted. The Chairman then concluded the business, gentlemen, dividend warrants have been issued.

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The Secret Paper, by Walter Wood.

The Red Rose of a Summer, by Louise Mack.

The League of the White Hand, by Oswald Crawford.

The House of Intrigue, by Percy Whitton.

Little Green World, by J. E. Buckrose.

An Honest Man, by Ralph Harold Bretherton.

Spies of the Kaiser, by Wm. Le Queux.

A Royal Ward, by Percy J. Brehner.

The Gage, by Harold Baylis.

A House of Honor, by Beryl Faber and Queen Hamilton.

Elizabeth Visits America, by Editor Glyn.

The Romance of Beauty, by Roy Horniman.

Beyond, by Frank T. Bullen.

Philip Lovelock, by Charles Owen.

The Lioness of Mayfair, by Anna Compton.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

SOME PERTINENT QUESTIONS.

(To the Editor of the "China Mail.")

Sir, I should like a few lines of your valuable space to ask a few questions which have been on my mind for some time. First, could it not be possible for the Government to have a few seats placed on the Coochindoo and May Roads, as in this hot weather there is nowhere for any one to sit down? The children of the upper levels, especially, use these roads every day, and little legs cannot go very far without a rest.

(Second, on my list is: "Why is the undergrowth of our roads allowed to grow as high and get as untidy as it is at present? This never used to be so in the old days."

Thirdly: If 7.30 p.m. is the hour for closing the gates of the Public Gardens, why were they found closed at 7.15 on Sunday evening, causing great inconvenience to the many church-goers who often stroll home through the Gardens?

Instead of exercising exact promptitude, the official responsible for the closing of the gates might allow a few minutes grace on fine summer evenings, especially on Sunday nights.

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CHINA MAIL, LIMITED.

General Memoranda.

WEDNESDAY, August 25—

10 a.m.—Auction of Government Stores

at Army Ordnance Store, Queen's

Road East.

2.30 p.m.—Auction of Household Furni-

ture, &c., at Mr. G. P. Lamont's sales

rooms.

Goods per *Avoncliff* undelivered after this

date subject to rent.

Goods per *Kangaroo Maru* not cleared

on this date subject to rent.

Goods per *O. Ferdi* undelivered after this

date subject to rent.

THURSDAY, August 26—

11 a.m.—Auction of 2,500 tons of Aus-

tralian Coal at Yau Ma Tei Police Station.

Goods per *Benlauer* undelivered after this

date subject to rent.

FRIDAY, August 27—

6 p.m.—Military Gun Practice.

2.30 p.m.—Auction of Household Furni-

ture, &c., at No. 3, Blue Buildings (first

floor).

Goods per *Prins Waldemar* undelivered

after this date subject to rent.

SATURDAY, August 28—

2.30 p.m.—Auction of Household Furni-

ture at No. 3, Gomes Villas, Kowloon.

8 p.m.—Boxing at City Hall.

Goods per *Mongolia* undelivered at noon

this date subject to rent.

Goods per *Flintshire* not cleared on

this date at 3 p.m. subject to rent.

The China Mail.

HONGKONG, MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 1909.

THE BANK MEETING.

The current of prosperity which has accompanied the operations of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation for many years past is still running at flood-tide, despite the ever increasing number of competitors who have entered the field during the present decade. The shareholders at last Saturday's half-yearly meeting were again treated to a recital of some big aggregations of figures, showing the magnitude of the business transacted and very naturally expression was afterward given by Mr. Dundas to the satisfaction which was almost universally felt with the management of the Bank, which has achieved such fine results at a time of admittedly adverse conditions. We noticed in re-

cent papers from Home that a little dissatisfaction with the policy of the Bank has been prevalent there. It was felt, we read, that a larger distribution of profits among the shareholders might in all reason have been made, but we think the general opinion in Hongkong and China is that the Directors are wise in adhering to the old traditions and that the further strengthening of the reserves is more business-like and more commensurate with the Bank's future interests than the declaration of a bigger dividend than has been customary of recent years.

To those people who look to the half-yearly address of the Chairman of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation for some indication of the probable reading of the trade barometer for the next six months, the Hon. Mr. Gasson's speech will, we are afraid, prove a little disappointing. The present Chairman of the Court of Directors holds the opinion that the August meeting of shareholders should be mainly confined to passing the accounts, he therefore refrained from entering upon any lengthy review of trade and business generally. But this opinion notwithstanding he could not pass the subject by entirely unnoticed. "We are still waiting," he said, "for the long expected turn of the tide. It cannot be said that trade in the Far East is yet in a flourishing condition, but there is promise of improvement in some directions, and I see no cause for taking a pessimistic view. On the contrary, news from India of the climatic conditions upon which particularly in that country so much depends, is favourable; silk crops in both China and Japan are reported to be well up to, if not above, the average; and new life has been infused into the Straits Settlements by the success attending the cultivation of rubber, a product which bids fair to become a valuable and, I hope, a permanent addition to the exports of that region." These factors must all have a beneficial effect on the import trade, which has been in a more or less depressed state for a long time past, and needless to say, any improvement will be welcomed by all who are interested in Eastern commerce. With these brief comments on the commercial situation

we must perforce have to be content for the present. One little satisfaction there is to be gathered from them; it is that the men who guide the fortunes of the premier banking institution in the far East evidently think that the murky clouds which have for so long hung like a pall over everything are beginning to lighten and that ere long they will roll away. Of course after such a prolonged period of depression the time of recovery must necessarily seem long drawn-out, but if the trade revival, when it comes, proceeds along sound lines it will bring ample compensations in its train.

One other topic mentioned on Saturday demands attention. There is no gaining the lukewarmness which characterises the attitude of the average resident in the Colony towards the Hongkong university scheme. The action of the Bank in donating a substantial sum towards the proposed endowment fund has therefore come in for a certain amount of criticism. The Chairman referred to the matter in the course of his address, and his explanation of the action of the Court of Directors sufficiently answers these critics, in our opinion. He said:—"You have no doubt noticed the announcement that on behalf of the Bank your Directors have agreed to subscribe \$50,000 to the proposed Hongkong University, conditionally upon the full amount required for the Endowment Fund being forthcoming. Without desiring to enter into the controversy as to the desirability of a University at all, I would point out that the proposition has been most favourably received by the Chinese, including the highest officials, not only in Canton but also in Peking, as is demonstrated by the way they have come forward with subscriptions. If you will reflect on the position held by the Bank in China and its intimate financial relations with the

Chinese Imperial Government for so many years, I am sure you will recognise that we have acted in the best interests of the Bank and will approve of the action accordingly." The shareholders present at once signified their approval, and they no doubt also reflected the opinion of many not present in the City Hall.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

The English Mail of the 24th July was delivered in London on the 21st inst.

One fatal case of plague was reported from Moukoko during the week ending August 21.

Since January 1st there have been 134 cases of plague reported, 121 of which were fatal. Out of these 118 were Chinese.

A telegram had been received from H. E. M. Consul at Batavia that the quarantine restrictions imposed against Hongkong have been removed.

The Pacific Mail liner *Mongolia* is carrying the first large shipment of Manila cigars to the United States since the passing of the Payne bill. The shipment amounts to 3,000,000 cigars of various brands.

The Consulate-General of the Netherlands (Hongkong) is in receipt of telegraphic information from the Governor-General of Netherlands-India, that the sanitary measures adopted against Hongkong on account of plague have been withdrawn.

The funeral of the two Sikh policemen butchered in the New Territory on Friday morning took place at Happy Valley on Saturday evening, being attended by a large company of police and civilians. So far no clues have been obtained concerning the murderers.

Despatches received at the State Department in Washington say that Peru has issued an ultimatum to the Republic of Bolivia in the matter of the abuses heaped upon the lives and property of citizens of Peru residing in Bolivia as a result of the award, favourable to Peru, in the boundary arbitration recently made.

Owing to a great demand on our space to-day we have been compelled to hold over "A Briton's" letter on the Licensing Question, West River, Amoy and Macao Notes, an interview with a prominent Manila resident concerning the prospects for next year's Manila Carnival; and a lot of other matter.

A correspondent up on the West River writes expressing surprise that not more people, especially tourists, make the trip from Hongkong up the West River to Nanning. He says that the journey from Whuchow to Nanning does not take 6 or 7 days by motor-boat, as recently stated in our columns; even at lowest water, with hosts of difficulties, it only consumes 5 days, while recently it was accomplished in 2 days and 4 hours. The service of boats now running on the West River make travelling comparatively luxurious while the riverine scenery causes the journey to be decidedly worth while.

OUR POLICE.

A Sensible Suggestion

A Correspondent writes:—Some time ago a suggestion was made in the public press that there should be a mounted police patrol on duty, daily, covering the road from Kowloon to Yau Ma Tei, across to Kowloon City and thence back to the sea shore to the bottom of Robinson Road, or other starting point in Kowloon. The utter inadequacy of our police, European, Sikh and Chinese, excepting the plain clothes department, which is exceptionally smart, is, and has been, a subject of adverse criticism for a long time past. It is not enough for huge men in uniform to loiter about, to stand on point duty, with eyes open to friends only; it is not enough for Sikhs, with unsuitable caps, and smart *louis ensembles* to content themselves with bullying coolies; we want smartness. How many regiments and men on beat duty can direct the public to any particular lane or street?

Let look the richshaw and general traffic is not lost after it. What would happen if a few lighters or dog-carts were to become the vogue?

The withdrawal of a European officer from the New Territory was a sad mistake and once more points to the fact that we want new blood now, or, at least, supervision. The office work and more common procedure of interior economy of police duty is, we believe, carried on along proper lines; but as ratepayers, we are not satisfied with the regime as a whole under Captain Superintendent Foadley.

There are not many people aware that there are among us an ex-officer of Cape Mounted Police and two or three others from the Natal Mounted as well as Cape Police. Cannot these individuals be approached by our Colonial Secretary? These men would not want instruction; they are accustomed to work in a hot climate, and over a dusty dry country too; such as parts of Cape Colony; also they would be disciplinarians which, alas, our police do not appear to be. Sikh reservists from the Royal Labours under these old South Africans would be just the men to form the nucleus of a body of Hongkong mounted police now so much wanted and which we now urge the powers that be to form.

CHINA AND JAPAN.

BEGINNING OF BETTER RELATIONS.

(Independent News Agency's Service to the China Mail.)

Tokyo, August 21.

The amicable settlement of the Mukden-Antung Railway reconstruction and the Kirin-Changchun railway questions is welcomed in Japan as a sign of the improving friendly relations between Japan and China.

THE OSAKA EXPLOSION.

FURTHER DETAILS.

(Independent News Agency's Service to the China Mail.)

Tokyo, Aug. 22.

The correct details of the recent powder magazine explosion at Osaka show that 23,000 kilograms of dynamite and 80,000 kilograms of powder exploded. 1520 buildings were damaged, and 20 people were seriously injured. The probable cause of the disaster is said to be quite natural.

JAPAN AND AERO-PLANES.

Mr. Nakamura, Superintendent of the Tokyo meteorological station, and Professors Tanakadate and Iguchi, of the Imperial University, have been appointed to the committee of the Aero-plane Association of Japan.

THE MARINE COURT.

At the Marine Court to-day before Lieut. C. W. Beckwith, R.N., Harbour Master, Leung Yan, master of the licensed passenger boat No. 238, was dismissed with a caution, and warned not to come up on the same charge again, for failing to produce his passenger boat license when called upon to do so by a police officer on the 23rd inst.

Prisoner said he had paid the \$0 and got a receipt. He knew he ought to have gone to the Harbour Office for a license, but he had not done so.

THE COMPROMISE CASE.

A Successful Appeal.

To-day in the Supreme Court judgment was given in the appeal lodged against the decision of the Chief Justice in the action S. J. David and Co. v. Chan Ut Chiu. It will be remembered that Messrs David and Co. sued Chan Ut Chiu for alleged damages under a compromise agreement, and that there was a counter-claim by the defendant for the return of his security of \$55,000 and interest. The Chief Justice on December 23rd of last year gave judgment on the claim and counterclaim for the defendant complainant.

Mr. Duncan McNell, of Shanghai, and Mr. C. G. Alabaster appeared for the appellants, instructed by Mr. Geddes, of Messrs Johnston, Stokes and Master; and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. Scott Harrison, appeared for the respondents.

In a summary at the conclusion of a long judgment, the Chief Justice found, first, so far as the mortgage was concerned: "There is no personal covenant to pay Chinese losses. There is not sufficient evidence of any agreement outside the mortgage to pay these losses, either from the recitals of mortgage or otherwise. The mortgage itself does not imply the existence of such an agreement or liability. The provisions for redemption cannot be construed into covenants to pay the Chinese losses, although they are referred to in one of the covenants. There is no undertaking to pay the Chinese losses in the agreement. There is however a clause in the mortgage which says that demands may be made by the firm for the amount of the Chinese losses. Whereupon the proviso for redemption operates, and if the amount is not paid the security is forfeit." In this clause there is a statement that the money demanded shall be due and owing in virtue of the demand, and it is doubtful whether it could hold that this of itself is an admission that the money are due and owing, even applying the law that a statement made by a party to a deed binds him. But in the agreement there is a clause which manifestly refers to this clause in the mortgage as a security, and if a security, then a security for the amount owing. There is therefore a statement in the deed that the money are demanded; they cannot be owing except by the person who is called on to pay money by the demand; this reference to the admission in the deed, although it is made in a document which is itself a deed, shows clearly, that the mortgage does not itself show it; that the intention of the parties to the deed was that the mortgage was a security for the payment by the complainant of money so demanded by the firm and so owing by the complainant, on the strength of which another and further security in cash was given by the agreement.

It is therefore of opinion that the judgment in the court below should be reversed and judgment entered for the plaintiff with costs of the court below and of the appeal.

The Police Judge also delivered a lengthy judgment concerning with the Chief Justice.

Mr. Alabaster moved for judgment for the amount endorsed on the writ.

Mr. Slade said: "This is quite preliminary. There are a dozen or two other defenses. This is only a preliminary attack."

Chief Justice (Judge): "But I repeat the same. I suppose."

Mr. Slade said for and was granted stay of execution for a fortnight.

IMPERIAL DEFENCE.

NEW SCHEMES FOR BOMBAY AND HONGKONG.

Local Dockyard to be Overhauled.

(From Our Own Correspondence.)

London, August 23.

The Birmingham Post hears that the Imperial Defence Commission has decided to convert Bombay into a first-class naval station and to overhaul the Dockyard at Hongkong with a view to increasing its utility.

Canada, Australia, and New Zealand have agreed to maintain dockyards available alike for Imperial and Colonial fleets.

TURKEY AND GREECE.

(Reuter's Service to the China Mail.)

London, August 22.

Reuter learns that it is probable that Turkey will make no formal reply to the Note from the Powers, which does not call for any response.

It is unlikely in view of the conciliatory character of the Greek Note that Turkey will appeal to the Powers regarding Macedonia.

LORD KITCHENER.

HIS VISIT TO THE EAST.

(Reuter's Service to the China Mail.)

London, August 21.

Lord Kitchener sails from Tientsin for China and Japan on September 12th. He was entertained to a brilliant farewell banquet at Simla last night.

AMERICAN ENTERPRISE IN TURKEY.

RAILWAY CONCESSION CONDITIONALLY APPROVED.

(Reuter's Service to the China Mail.)

London, August 21.

The Constantinople Chamber has substantially approved of the project granting a concession to an American Company to construct a railway from Sivas to Mosul via Van, on condition that no better terms are offered within a period of sixteen months.

FRENCH BUDGET DEFICIT.

TOBACCO AND WINE TO BE FURTHER TAXED.

(Reuter's Service to the China Mail.)

London, August 21.

It is calculated that the French Budget for 1910 will reveal a deficit of at least £3,000,000, which it is proposed to meet by additional taxes on wine and tobacco.

FLOODS IN VICTORIA.

GREATEST KNOWN IN FORTY YEARS.

Tremendous Damage.

(Reuter's Service to the China Mail.)

London, August 23.

Reuter's correspondent, telegraphing from Melbourne, says that heavy rains have caused the greatest floods known in Victoria for forty years. Bridges have been demolished and railways interrupted. Great damage has resulted and there is much loss of stock.

INFANTILE CHOLERA.

A NY unusual looseness of a child's bowels during the hot weather should be a warning to mothers. Infantile cholera may develop in a few hours, and prompt action should be taken to avoid it. Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, followed by a dose of castor oil, will check the disease in its incipency, and all danger may be avoided. For Sale by all chemists and druggists.

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FRANCISCO TSE YAT, General Manager.
Hongkong, August 12, 1909.

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No. 2, Fooking Street,
Hongkong, January 9, 1909.

**HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK-
ING CORPORATION.**
THE DIVIDEND declared for the
Half-Year ended 30th June, 1909, at
the rate of TWO POUNDS STERLING
per Share of £125 is payable on and after
MONDAY, the 23rd August, current, at the
Offices of the Corporation, where
Shareholders are requested to 'Apply for
Warrants.'
By Order of the Court of Directors,
J. R. M. SMITH,
Chief Manager.
Hongkong, August 21, 1909.

HONGKONG ICE COMPANY,
LIMITED.
NOTICE.
IN accordance with the Provisions of
No. 104 of the Articles of Association
the General Managers have this day declared
an INTERIM DIVIDEND for the
half-year ended 30th June, 1909, of TWO
DOLLARS PER SHARE.
DIVIDEND WARRANTS may be ob-
tained on application at the Office of the
Company on and after WEDNESDAY,
25th instant.
The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Com-
pany will be CLOSED from the 10th inst.
to 24th instant, both days inclusive.
JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd.,
General Managers.
Hongkong, August 13, 1909.

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Hongkong, Dec. 20, 1907.

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LONDON LETTER.
(From Our Own Correspondent.)
LONDON, July 30.
Dr. M. A. Stein, the well known explorer
of Central Asia, is hard at work on a
popular account of his travels. Like a
wise man he is combining pleasure with
duty and has just gone for a tour of a
few months duration in the Alps and
Northern Italy.

I doubt very much whether anything
more will be heard of the "All-Red Route"
of British travel, via Canada to the East
and Australasia, that was a prominent topic
at the Imperial Conference, on the initia-
tive of Canada. The matter was referred
to a committee but it has not met since
last year and I hear it may not meet again.
The evidence already collected proved to
the committee that the scheme would be
extremely expensive and a large share of
it would fall on the Imperial Exchequer.
Another scheme in a bad way is the
Daylight Saving Bill. The Chairman of
the parliamentary committee to which it
was referred prepared a report that was
generally favourable but on being put to
the vote it was rejected in favour of a
hostile report prepared by Mr. Dundas
White. The committee has now adjourned
in the hope of arriving at a compromise
before the next meeting. Many trades
are against "tampering with the clock"
and the opposition is strong enough to
secure the setting back of the measure,
for the present at any rate. Nevertheless
the area of supporters is increasing. Many
towns in America have passed resolutions
in favour of making the most of the hours
of daylight.

Lieutenant Shackleton, the Antarctic ex-
plorer, is the lion of the hour. No great
scholarship prize day, or similar function is
complete without his presence and he
always addresses the prize-winners with the
facility of an old hand at the game. An
old hand with a difference, however, for he
carries into the ceremonies a sprightliness
that is seldom seen at such functions. In-
deed Lieutenant Shackleton is a remark-
able type of explorer. Usually they are men of
the wild, without classical gift. But
Shackleton is surprising us all with the
breadth of his culture, the facility of his
speeches. Browning, it seems, was the
solace of his Arctic solitude. He carried
the poet with him always and his perspira-
tion during the day softened the cover-
so that during the night, when he laid
the book aside, they froze hard. But
the leaves inside suffered little and he
spoke with pride of the study he devoted
to them. It is the call of the South that
he still hears, "that olden lure, that golden
lure, that lure of the long ago." So we
shall probably see him soon off on another
trip. He believes that in the changing
conditions of the world's crust the Arctic
regions will one day escape from their
fastness of ice and blossom with fruit and
flowers. He rejoices to know that the
regions will be British territory, but I fancy
we can hardly bank much on the glacial
period ending there soon enough for any
of us to be much the wiser.

Mr. George Wade, the sculptor, whose
work is shown in several statues in Hong-
kong is now engaged on statues of Sir
Henry Blake and Sir West Ridgway, both
to be set up in the Council Chamber in
Ceylon. Sir Henry Blake will be well
remembered in Hongkong. I met him in
Kingsway, only a day or two ago, looking
 hale and hearty. Mr. Wade is also engaged
on an equestrian statue of the Maharajah
of Nepal, ordered when that dignitary was
here last year as the guest of the nation.

The marriage has been arranged and will
take place at the Cathedral at Shanghai in
the autumn, of Mr. Gordon Dingwall Main,
younger son of D. G. Main, M.D. of
Hampshire, and Florence, third daughter
of Mr. Clement Alexander Middleton,
Benchet of Grays Inn.

Mr. W. J. Cullen, K.C., the newly
appointed Judge of the Court of Session,
appeared at the Bar of the first Division of
the Court of Session in Edinburgh on July
20 and presented his commission. The
Lord President ordered the Lord Proba-
tioners to proceed to Lord Skerrington's
Bar and hear two cases. The prescribed
trials having been satisfactorily passed, the
new judge was invested with his robes and
took the oath of office and fidelity, with
the title of Lord Cullen.

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SPORTING.
Shooting.

THE CARMICHAEL CUP.
In ideal conditions the second shoot for the Carmichael Cup took place yesterday, a good number of competitors turning up at the range. At 2-40 yards Sapper Neubronner came out on top and he remained consistent all through. Carroll, his nearest opponent at the initial distance, badly falling away later and retiring. In point of actual total score, Russell was on equal terms with Sapper Neubronner at the finish, but the latter secured victory as the result of making the best net score. Altogether there was some capital shooting and the leading men kept close to one another, as the following details indicate:—

Sapper Neubronner	95
Lieut. Russell	95
Sapper Haines	81
Sapper Ross	81
Capt. Craik	77

CAPTAIN WOOD'S CUP.

A climb to Tai Hang Rifle Range at this season of the year, with the prospect of a "blowing" on getting there, cannot be regarded in the light of a picnic, nevertheless nine members of the Volunteer Infantry Company mustered sufficient interest and energy to turn up on Saturday and Sunday to shoot for Captain Wood's Cup, and for practice.

Good scopes on this range are difficult at the best of times, so, with a trying glare at the targets and a tricky wind upsetting calculations, low scoring was only to be expected, particularly as most of the competitors are beginners.

Appended are the aggregate scores for the cup.

Private Elliot	91
Backhouse	90
Leo. Cpl. Stewart	87
Private Adams	78
Phillips	77
" " " "	77
Taylor	74
Hill	71
Curwen	60

Lawn Tennis.

CRAIGINGOWER & WATSON'S

On the Craigingower Courts on Saturday, a match took place between three players of the Club's players and a like number from A. S. Watson's C.C. The result was a victory for Craigingower by 56 games to 43. Scores:—

Lammert and Peterson (Craigingower) beat Tarrant and Capell 7/4; beat Miller and Skinn 5/2; lost to Taylor and Phillips 3/8.
Rose and Stewart (Craigingower) lost to Tarrant and Capell 5/8; lost to Miller and Skinn 5/8; lost to Taylor and Phillips 2/8.
Pestonji and Bass (Craigingower) beat Tarrant and Capell 10/1; beat Miller and Skinn 10/1; lost to Taylor and Phillips 5/8.

Lawn Bowls.

TAIKOO & COSMOPOLITAN DOCK.

On Saturday afternoon a representative team from the Taidoo Bowling Club visited Cosmopolitan Dock to engage in a friendly match. The result was a win for the home side by a margin of 14 points. The winners were up in two rinks and down in the third. Scores:—

TAIKOO.	COSMOPOLITAN.
J. Shand	W. F. Ford
A. Henderson	P. N. News
W. Buxford	J. McGlashan
R. Aitken (skip)	A. Nicholson (skip)
D. Grimshaw	J. Eynoch
W. E. Eldridge	D. Nielson
J. Taylor	A. M. News
C. Crane	T. N. News (skip)
V. Worth	J. McCaig
H. Duncan	J. Walker
W. Hardwick	P. Angus
(skip)	J. Ramsay (skip)

Total.....51
At the close Mr. Nicholson complimented Taidoo on their keen and sportsmanlike play, and also expressed the pleasure of the Cosmopolitan Club at their presence. Mr. Hardwick, on behalf of the visitors, returned thanks and expressed the hope that on a future day at Quarry Bay the results would be different.

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R. A. MASSEY.

Hongkong, July 4, 1909.

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